

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7120

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10124

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, US

SUBJECT: LON NOL LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON

1. PRESIDENT LON NOL'S DIRECTOR OF CABINET ASKED EMBASSY TO FORWARD TEXT OF MARSHAL'S JULY 29 LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON. EMBASSY WILL POUCH ORIGINAL TO EA/LC. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION:

2. BEGIN TEXT. PHNOM PENH, JULY 29, 1974

MISTER PRESIDENT,
AFTER FIVE YEARS OF AGGRESSION BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS, THE KHMER PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THEM CREATE, EITHER BY FORCE OF FORCED INDOCTRINATION, A "QUISLING" LIKE FORCE OF UNCOMPARABLE SAVAGERY. WITH THESE AVAILABLE MEANS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTINUE THEIR DREAM OF WEAKENING THE KHMER PEOPLE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT BY OBLITERATING THEIR ANCESTRAL CULTURE, BY GENOCIDE AND BY SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION. IF THE KHMER PEOPLE BECOME EXHAUSTED, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL DOMINATE THE COUNTRY AT LEAST THROUGH AN INDOCHINESE CONFEDERATION; WE DO NOT AS YET KNOW WHAT THEY WOULD DO WITH OUR COUNTRY AFTERWARD.

THESE NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN CAMBODIA DESPITE THE PARIS ACCORDS OF JANUARY 27, 1973. DESPITE ALL THAT WE DO, THEY WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THEIR POLITICAL AND
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SUBVERSIVE STRATEGY AND THEIR WAR USING "QUISLING"

LIKE COLLABORATORS.

OUR PEOPLE HAVE NOT BEEN SURPRISED AND FALLEN UNDER THE ENEMY'S YOKE AND UNTIL NOW THEY HAVE FOUGHT FIERCELY TO DEFEND THEIR INDEPENDENCE, LIBERTY, NEUTRALITY, RELIGION AND CULTURE. EVEN NOW, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE AREA TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED BY THE ENEMY REJOIN US WHEN THEY CAN. HOWEVER OUR KHMER PEOPLE WILL BECOME WEAKER BY THE CONTINUATION OF A STRUGGLE WHICH HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FORCED ON THEM. AT THE PRESENT TIME OUR PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING INNUMERABLE CALAMITIES IN THE ZONES HELD BY THE ENEMY.

TO PUT AN END TO THE SCOURGE OF THE PRESENT WAR, WHICH PROFITS ONLY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, WHETHER HERE, IN SOUTH VIETNAM, OR IN THAILAND, WE DECIDED ON JULY 9, 1974, TO LAUNCH AN APPEAL FOR PEACE THROUGH UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, THE KHMER WISH TO REMAIN IN A NEUTRAL SOUTHEAST ASIA.

MISTER PRESIDENT, YOU AND THE GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE, HAVE ALWAYS AIDED US. IN THE NAME OF MY PEOPLE, I WOULD LIKE TO COUNT ON YOUR ACCUSTOMED ACTIVE ASSISTANCE SO THAT MY COUNTRY CAN RETURN TO PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND THE LIBERTY WHICH IT DESERVES.

IN A CERTAIN MEASURE, I THINK THAT ALL OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL LIKEWISE BENEFIT AS MY COUNTRY RETURNS RAPIDLY TO PEACE.

IT IS WITH THESE SENTIMENTS, MISTER PRESIDENT, THAT I RENEW MY GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR THE FIRM ASSISTANCE WHICH YOU HAVE ALWAYS BROUGHT TO MY COUNTRY AND THAT I ASK YOU TO ACCEPT THE ASSURANCE OF MY VERY FOND GREETINGS AND MY VERY HIGH CONSIDERATION.
C/O MARSHAL LON NOL. END TEXT

3. IN ADDITION TO WRITING PRESIDENT NIXON, LON NOL ALSO DESPATCHED PERSONAL MESSAGES TO MADAME GANDHI, PRESIDENT
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GISCARD D'ESTAING, PRIME MINISTER TANAKA, AND SECRETARY GENERAL BREJNEV. LATTER FOUR MESSAGES ARE RESTRAINED APPEALS TO THESE KEY LEADERS TO HELP KHMERS ON BOTH SIDES ENTER INTO DIALOGUE IN SEARCH OF AN END TO THE CONFLICT. LON NOL'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON WAS DRAFTED IN CHAMCAR MON PALACE WHILE THE OTHER MESSAGES WERE PREPARED FOR HIS SIGNATURE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE. I ALSO REMIND THE DEPARTMENT THAT IN ADDITION TO ABOVE COMMUNICA-

TIONS, LON NOL SENT MESSAGES TO ASEAN CHIEFS OF
STATE OFFERING TO SEND PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET TO THEIR
CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN KHMER REPUBLIC.
ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER, INDONESIANS HAVE AGREED TO
RECEIVE LONG BORET FIRST PART OF AUGUST, WHILE MALAYSIANS
RECOMMEND POSTPONEMENT WITHOUT SETTING LATER DATE, PLEADING
FULL SCHEDULE.
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